

Senator Jack Scott

21st District Legislative Update

April 2006



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA UPDATE

I have no doubt you all are aware of the numerous stories about the compensation of UC executives that have been reported in the press over the past several months.

Personally, I find these news accounts extremely distressing. The University of California enjoys a level of autonomy - granted by the State Constitution - that is unparalleled in California's other public systems of higher education. To think that that trust has been abused through questionable compensation practices is quite distasteful and can only tarnish the reputation of the University.

The Senate Education Committee, which I chair, decided to conduct hearings to obtain a full accounting of the UC compensation issues and determine where in policy or practice the UC compensation process failed. I wanted to ensure that the University be held accountable to the Legislature, faculty & staff, students and all Californians.

During the course of those two hearings (conducted Feb. 8th & 22nd), UC President Robert Dynes as well as Board of Regents President Gerald Parsky testified. We heard a lot of conflicting reports about UC policies and exceptions to those policies.

The result was a renewed commitment on the part of the University and the Regents for more accountability and transparency. There are currently three audits of policies and procedures underway:

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Senator Scott with Woman of the Year Libby Evans Wright

NO FOOLING – EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES!

SACRAMENTO - The woman who made history as the first woman President of the Tournament of Roses, made history of another sort when Senator Scott named her "Woman of the Year" for Senate District 21.

Libby Evans Wright joined other women from around the state at a ceremony in the State Capitol on March 20, where she was recognized for her leadership of the Tournament and her years of community activism.

Said Senator Scott, "I am delighted to honor Libby Evans Wright for her remarkable career with the Tournament of Roses and for her more than 35 years of leadership in many areas of public service."

Wright served as the Tournament's first woman president in 2005-2006, presiding over the 117th Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl Game. Though rain soaked the parade route, it didn't dampen her enthusiasm. She has been a member of the Tournament of Roses Association since 1979. In addition to the Tournament, Wright has served with various community organizations from the United Way to LAPD Review Board to Methodist Hospital and Pacific Clinics.

LEGISLATION – Cont.

UC HEARINGS – CONT...

First, the State Bureau of Audits is looking into UC's executive compensation practices, and will report back to the Legislature in May.

Second, President Dynes has ordered an outside audit into salaries, vacations, and perks for current and past senior management that is expected to be released to the Legislature in April.

And finally, the Board of Regents has created The Task Force on UC Compensation, Accountability and Transparency. The findings of this task force are expected within the next several weeks.

In light of the extraordinary authority granted to the UC, my view is that the level of disclosure provided to the public and, in fact, to the UC Regents themselves on occasion has been unsatisfactory. We must work to establish transparency and accountability for UC executive compensation, and I look forward to the discussion ahead.

LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHT: SB 1683

“PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT”

Senator Scott and CALPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group) have introduced legislation to ensure that drug companies disclose the results of their clinical trials for each drug sold in California.

SB 1683 would give researchers, doctors, and patients access to the results for virtually every pharmaceutical clinical trial conducted over the past several decades.

Senator Scott explained the legislation this way, “For many years, I have been concerned that consumers do not have enough access to information regarding pharmaceutical drugs and their testing history. The goal of this legislation is to keep Californians healthy and safe by providing information to our citizens.”

This bill will be heard in Senate Health Committee this spring.

SENATOR SCOTT GIVEN EDUCATION HONORS

Senator Scott has been recognized with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the California Community Colleges for his commitment to education and his legislative accomplishments. In a reception held in Sacramento last month, Senator Scott was recognized for his four-decade career in higher education and his support of bills boosting the community colleges.

Community College Chancellor Mark Drummond noted that Senator Scott has authored and supported bills to ensure community college funding, broaden career-technical education programs, and streamline transfer requirements for community college students.

Senator Scott is the first recipient of the “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

The California State University also honored Senator Scott recently for his work on behalf of CSU. In a ceremony on March 20, Senator Scott was named “Legislator of the Year.”

The CSU's students, board of trustees, chancellor and the 23 campus presidents recognized Senator Scott for his work in support of higher education as chair of the Senate Committee on Education. Chancellor Charles Reed pointed to Scott's role in legislation allowing CSU campuses to offer a Doctorate in Education.

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☆ 2006 LEGISLATION ☆

HIGHLIGHTS

SCR 64 -- Arts Education Month

This resolution proclaims the month of March 2006 as "Arts Education Month," to support the value that arts education brings to pupils' education and to their future contributions as productive citizens.

SB 148 - Liquor Store Ordinances

SB 148 gives authority to local governments to establish a reasonable period of time for nuisance liquor stores to conform to changing zoning requirements.

SB 361 -- Community College Financing

This bill seeks to implement a system-wide effort within the California Community Colleges (CCC) to reform the funding allocation formula for the 72 districts that comprise the CCC.

SB 652 -- Community College/UC Transfer Simplification

Builds on the successful effort from two years ago (SB 1785) which directed the CSU to establish a common lower-division transfer curriculum by major that community college transfer students could follow to ensure all of their CCC units transfer to CSU. This bill calls for similar measures at the University of California.

SB 1223 - Hearing Aids

This bill would require all health care service plans and health insurers to cover the costs of hearing tests and hearing aids for children with hearing loss/disabilities (up to \$1000).

SB 1533 -- Paraprofessional Teachers

The California School Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program brings talented, experienced classroom teachers' aids into the teaching profession through a program of financial and instructional support re-paid by the participants through later service as teachers.

SB 1709 -- College Opportunity Act of 2006

The College Opportunity Act of 2006 renews the state's commitment to the promise made in the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education that California provides a place in a community college or university for every eligible student who seeks it. Given significant growth in California's young adult population and the increasing demands for a highly-educated workforce, the bill sets out a vision for extending the promise of college opportunity to the next generation of Californians.

Women In Business Awards: September 7, 2006

Now Accepting Nominations!

For the past six years Senator Scott has partnered with Assemblywoman Carol Liu and Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer to jointly sponsor the Annual Women in Business Luncheon and Awards, honoring local women who contribute to the economic vitality of their three districts. **Thursday, September 7, 2006**, at the Castaway in Burbank, will be our seventh and final collaborative ceremony and celebration. Each year this event has grown in size and popularity; last year's luncheon drew nearly 500 guests.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the following eleven categories:

- SMALL BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR
- CORPORATE WOMAN OF THE YEAR
- NON-PROFIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR
- TAMI GINSBURG EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- NON-PROFIT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- EMPOWERMENT AWARD
- MOST INSPIRATIONAL
- WOMAN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- WOMAN IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
- WOMAN IN LAW
- JUNIOR BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

If you have any questions and/or would like a nomination form or invitation, please contact Narine Zardarian at: Narine.Zardarian@asm.ca.gov Phone: (818) 240-6330 Fax: (818) 240-4632

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